

AMENDED IN SENATE JANUARY 11, 2006

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 22, 2005

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 16, 2005

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 14, 2005

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 25, 2005

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 4, 2005

SENATE BILL

No. 767

**Introduced by Senator Romero
(Coauthor: Senator Torlakson)**

February 22, 2005

~~An act to add and repeal Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 5500) to Part 4 of the Education Code, relating to school district governance, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately. An act relating to school district governance.~~

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 767, as amended, Romero. ~~Los Angeles Unified School District: appointment of board members.~~ *School district governance: mayoral governance.*

Existing law authorizes the voters of a charter city, or city and county to provide for the election or appointment of members of the governing board of a school district the boundaries of which are within the territory of the city or city and county.

This bill would require the California Research Bureau of the State Library to submit a report regarding, among other things, mayoral governance of a school district to the Legislature on or before

October 1, 2007, and makes legislative findings and declarations relating to the Los Angeles Unified School District.

~~(1) Existing law requires any unified school district which is coterminous with or includes within its boundaries a chartered city or city and county to be governed by the board of education provided for in the charter of the city or city and county. Existing law requires the governing body of a school district to be composed of 7 members, elected as provided, for any school district situated wholly or partly within a city containing a population of over 1,900,000 according to the 1950 federal census. Existing law authorizes the governing board of any school district employing 8 or more teachers to employ a district superintendent for one or more schools and to delegate the duties of the superintendent.~~

~~This bill would establish the Mayoral Leadership to Improve Education in Los Angeles Act to authorize the Mayor of the City of Los Angeles to, upon a finding of educational failure, as defined, appoint members to fill any vacancies on the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Board of Education and to appoint a new member upon the expiration of the term of an incumbent member. The bill would require the mayor to make the appointments from a list of nominations provided by a panel of advisers, which panel members are selected and composed as specified, and would require each appointment made by the mayor to be confirmed by a majority vote of the City Council of the City of Los Angeles. The bill would require, upon the finding of educational failure, the Governing Board of the LAUSD to be expanded from 7 to 9 members, as provided, thereby imposing a state-mandated local program. The bill would also authorize the mayor, upon the finding of educational failure, to appoint the superintendent of the LAUSD, subject to confirmation by the city council by majority vote. The bill would authorize the mayor to rescind the finding of educational failure once certain minimal academic performance criteria are satisfied.~~

~~The bill would repeal these provisions as of July 1, 2011.~~

~~(2) This bill would make a legislative finding and declaration of unique circumstances regarding the need for special legislation.~~

~~(3) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.~~

~~This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.~~

~~(4) This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.~~

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$ -majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: ~~yes~~-no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. *The Legislature finds and declares all of the*
2 *following:*
3 (a) *The schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District*
4 *(LAUSD) are facing severe academic, financial, and*
5 *infrastructure challenges.*
6 (b) *Pupils in the LAUSD are vastly underachieving. The base*
7 *score of the LAUSD on the state's Academic Performance Index*
8 *(API) remains well below the state average and almost 50*
9 *percent of schools of the LAUSD are ranked in deciles 1 to 3,*
10 *inclusive, on the API.*
11 (c) *A recent Harvard University report found that graduation*
12 *rates for pupils of the LAUSD are much lower than previously*
13 *acknowledged. Currently, the LAUSD is graduating less than 50*
14 *percent of its pupils.*
15 (d) *Classrooms and school infrastructure in the LAUSD are in*
16 *an unacceptable physical condition.*
17 (e) *Under the current governance structure, the LAUSD Board*
18 *of Education and its superintendent lack authority to coordinate*
19 *resources with local government agencies.*
20 (f) *Several major cities across the nation, including Boston,*
21 *New York, Chicago, and Cleveland, have implemented direct*
22 *mayoral leadership in schools, resulting in both improved*
23 *academic achievement and additional resources for educational*
24 *programs.*
25 SEC. 2. (a) *On or before October 1, 2007, the California*
26 *Research Bureau of the State Library shall submit a report to the*
27 *Legislature that includes all of the following:*

1 (1) Review of case studies in other states that have considered
2 the subject of mayoral governance of a school district in an
3 urban setting.

4 (2) Causal relationship between mayoral governance of an
5 urban school district and pupil outcomes, including increases in
6 pupil scores on the California High School Exit Examination and
7 Academic Performance Index, and decreases in pupil dropout
8 rates.

9 (3) Efficiency or management gains when an urban school
10 district is subject to mayoral governance, including gains in
11 financial resources.

12 (4) Ability of a mayor to coordinate resources between local
13 government agencies when an urban school district is subject to
14 mayoral governance.

15 (5) Ability of parents and pupils to participate in and resolve
16 pupil problems or issues when an urban school district is subject
17 to mayoral governance.

18 (6) Ability to create strong leadership and accountability when
19 an urban school district is subject to mayoral governance.

20 (7) The challenges and issues faced by a mayor when an
21 urban school district that is subject to mayoral governance has
22 boundaries that extend beyond the city's boundaries.

23 (b) The California Research Bureau report submitted to the
24 Legislature pursuant to subdivision (a) shall also discuss the
25 extent to which, if any, the report findings, including the findings
26 of paragraphs (1) to (6), inclusive, of subdivision (a), apply to
27 and are faced by the Los Angeles Unified School District.

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30 **All matter omitted in this version of the bill**
31 **appears in the bill as introduced/amended**
32 **in Senate, August 22, 2005 (JR11)**
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